



Strategic Command
Headquarters Defence Medical Services

**Headquarters Defence Medical
Services Secretariat**

Headquarters Defence Medical Services
Coltman House
Defence Medical Services Whittington
Tamworth Rd
Lichfield
WS14 9PY

Reference: FOI2024/05464

Date: 29 April 2024

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your enquiry of 2 April 2024 to the Ministry of Defence (MOD), in which you asked the following:

“I would like to know if you have taken blood samples from Gulf War (1990/1991) Service personnel while serving or veterans.

Please can you answer the following queries:

- ***What was the purpose of these samples***
- ***What were these blood samples use for***
- ***Outline the methodologies applied***
- ***What was the outcomes of this concerning UK serving personal and Armed Forces veterans***
- ***Was there a collaboration of stakeholders involved in collation of data / samples / funding***
- ***What other countries collaborated***
- ***Who were the stakeholders involved***
- ***Who and how as this assisted the beneficiaries”***

Your enquiry is being treated as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. A search for the information has now been completed within the MOD and I can confirm that recorded information in scope of your request is held.

This information is exempt under Section 21 of the FOIA because the information is already accessible to you at the following link:-

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200001/cmhansrd/vo010202/text/10202w03.htm>

Under Section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance) you might find it helpful to note recorded information held by MOD on the Gulf Veterans’ Medical Assessment Programme (GVMAP) advises the GVMAP, based at the Baird Health Centre in London, provided a specialised referral facility for investigation of deployment-related health problems in respect of Op GRANBY (the 1990/1991 Gulf Conflict) and Op TELIC (the 2003 Gulf Conflict). The role of the GVMAP was to assess patients and to recommend treatment. It did not provide treatment. Recommendations for

treatment identified as a result of the assessment process were passed to the patient's doctor to arrange further treatment and/or referral as appropriate.

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office.

If you wish to complain about the handling of your request, or the content of this response, you can request an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, Ground Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review should be made within 40 working days of the date of this response.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may raise your complaint directly to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the FOIA. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not normally investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website at <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours sincerely,

HQ Defence Medical Services